

## **G. Status Report**

The following sections provide an update of the current status of Tims Ford State Park. Included are descriptions of the land, resources, visitation, facilities, programs, equipment, maintenance and other significant areas of the park. This information is intended to provide a snapshot of Tims Ford State Park in the year 2001.

### ***G1. Land Based Resources***

#### **General Description**

Tims Ford State Park is located on the 10,680 acre Tims Ford Reservoir in Franklin and Moore Counties. The original park, which opened in 1978, consisted of 413 acres and the facilities and amenities that now exist. In 1996, the Tennessee Elk River Development Agency (TERDA), the development agency for the Tims Ford Reservoir since 1963, was dissolved by the Tennessee General Assembly. The agency's assets and responsibilities were transferred to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). The Tennessee Elk River Resource Management (TERRM) was created as a program of TDEC to manage the former TERDA resources and finances. With the TERDA lands already transferred, the park currently encompasses 1895 acres, with another 538.1 acres soon to be transferred. TDEC is responsible for another 852.9 acres that will be a part of the residential and commercial properties. Lands not incorporated into Tims Ford State Park will be distributed in accordance with the "Tims Ford Reservoir Land Management and Disposition Plan."

A map of Tims Ford State Park is included on the next page as [Figure 1](#). The Park will include the following properties:

Anderton Branch (Parcel 3 – 110.3 acres) contains a boat launching ramp and courtesy dock. The road to the boat ramp is very deteriorated. Since the road belongs to TDEC, a capital project will be required to bring it up to a level that the Tennessee Department of Transportation will agree to maintain.

Lost Creek (Parcel 10 – 3.4 acres) contains a boat-launching ramp and adjoins the Lost Creek Public Use Area. An additional 2.7 acres of TERRM land will be incorporated into the park as overflow parking for Lost Creek.

Ray Branch (Parcel 11 – 9.3 acres) was inadvertently left out of the Tims Ford State Park expansion. The property adjoins the park and the Golf Shores Subdivision.

Anderson Branch (Parcel 19 – 45.8 acres) adjoins the privately owned Tims Ford Marina. Ten acres are licensed for agricultural use.

Turkey Creek (Parcel 27 – 61 acres) contains the Turkey Creek Public Recreation Area, with a boat launching ramp and restrooms. There is a large open area that has historically been used for camping, though no formal camping facilities exist. The site also contains a fairly large unnamed cemetery.

Holiday Landing and Resort (Parcel 30 – 32.4 acres) is a state-owned marina facility currently operated under a license agreement. It contains 103 boat slips, a boat launching ramp, a restaurant, a gas dock, five cabins that sleep up to six each, five motel units that sleep up to four each, and five RV campsites with electric, water and sewer hook-ups. The State of Tennessee has approved a new twenty-year lease with the Holiday Landing owners.

Parcel 28 - 53.4 acres, this parcel constituting the portion of the parcel lying on the left bank of the Lick Creek embayment between parcel 30 and 32 and designated Zone 4 in the "Tims Ford Reservoir Land Management and Disposition Plan." This land will continue to be designated as Natural Resource Conservation Land

Parcel 32 – 89.3 acres, is north of the Awalt Bridge within sight of the Holiday Landing development. Twenty-five acres are currently under agricultural lease.

Pleasant Grove (Parcel 35 – 1.7 acres) contains the Pleasant Grove Public Use Area, with a boat launching ramp and restrooms. Though it is a small area, it enjoys heavy use, including unregulated camping. There is a possible encroachment by a private landowner to the west, near the entrance to the area.

Devil's Step (Parcel 76 – 131.5 acres) is contiguous to the Devil's Step boat launching ramp and a campground, known locally as the Fairview Campground, of eighty-eight sites on thirty-nine acres. Thirty of the sites are rented on a full seasonal basis, from April through October, as determined by a yearly auction. Seventeen of the full-season sites lie within Parcel 76. Fairview Campground has one picnic shelter with a capacity of about forty people. Sixty-three acres are licensed for agricultural use. The western part of the parcel contains a mature deciduous woodland and two state-listed sensitive plant species occur on the eastern shoreline. The locally significant species of Little Bluestem is located on the parcel. Any park development would have to be aware of the presence of sensitive plants.

The State Park will be responsible for maintaining and protecting the following TERRM properties until such time as other agencies in the area are able to contract with TDEC for their management. Local governmental entities have indicated interest in managing each of the following areas.

Neal Bridge (Parcel 23 – 23.6 acres) contains a heavily used boat-launching ramp on the upstream side of Neal Bridge. The downstream portion of the area was closed by the Moore County Sheriff's Department because of user abuse. Moore County has shown interest in developing the area into a county park. Until that arrangement has been made, the park will be responsible for the security of the area.

Rock Creek (Parcel 55 – 7.7 acres) is adjacent to Eastbrook Road and contains the Rock Creek Public Use Area, with a boat launching ramp, restrooms, picnic tables, and a parking lot. The City of Estill Springs has shown interest in developing the area as a City Park.

Dry Creek Beach (Parcel 79 – 27.6 acres) is a public swimming area, constructed by TERDA and operated by a management agreement with Franklin County. There are four acres under agricultural license.

Winchester City Park (Parcel 80 – 23.7 acres) is in two sections, one to the east and one to the west of the Winchester City Park. It is bisected by Old Estill Springs Road and the 161-kv Norris Wilson transmission line. There are two agricultural licenses on the parcel, as well as the Finch Cemetery. The City of Winchester has expressed interest in the acquisition of the two sections to expand the City Park.

The northwestern portion of the Tims Ford project area contains lands that range from nearly flat to gently rolling. Many knobs, hills, and small streams characterize the land around the lower part of the lake. A full and in-depth description of the area's topography is contained in the "Tims Ford Reservoir Land Management and Disposition Plan."

## **Erosion**

The park staff has identified several areas of erosion. The picnic areas in the existing core park are eroded due to heavy visitor use. The campground is heavily impacted by visitor use and eroded around every campsite and trail. Areas along the approaches to the bicycle bridge are eroded on both sides of the bridge. There is erosion along the lakeshore behind cabins number one and five. Another area of lakeshore erosion exists at the Mansford Bridge. Other erosion problems may come to light as new lands are incorporated into the park and the park staff becomes more familiar with them.

## **Land and Water Conservation Fund**

During 1976 through 1978, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) awarded \$541,766.32 in matching funds to Tims Ford State Park for the construction of facilities, including the following:

- Swimming Pool, bathhouse, and snack bar
- Picnic Area, two restrooms, two picnic shelters and play ground
- Fifty-site campground, check-in station, two shower houses, a playground, and campground roads.
- Maintenance complex
- Small boat complex, including launching ramp, bait shop, and parking area
- Signage system for the park

The original 413 acres of the park are bound by all regulations pertaining to the LWCF. New lands acquired following the dissolution of TERDA will not be subject to LWCF restrictions.

In May of 2000, the park received a Recreation Trails Grant of \$98,218 for the construction of a new multi-purpose trail.

## **Condition of Boundaries**

Park boundaries are generally known, but not well marked. Lands transferred because of the dissolution of TERDA were surveyed prior to the transfer. All boundaries should be surveyed and marked as Tennessee State Park property.

## **Encroachments**

A landowner in the Evans Estates subdivision has created lake access for himself by crossing state park property. The Tims Ford State Park staff is aware of the situation and is taking steps to discourage the landowner.

There is also potential encroachment near the entrance of the newly acquired Pleasant Grove area. The adjacent landowner has established a camping area that may be partially on state property.

The Evans Estates and Golf Shores subdivisions offer a number of potential encroachments because of their locations relative to the park. Evans Estates is bounded on three sides by state park property. The boundaries of both subdivisions should be surveyed and marked as property of Tennessee State Parks to avoid encroachment problems in the future.

The same is true of most of the park lands, both for the original park and for newly acquired properties. Until boundaries are known and marked, the potential of encroachment remains very high.

The park has encroached on property owned by the Marble Plains Church. The multi-purpose trail slightly intrudes on the church's land near their new fellowship hall. Also, the AmeriCorps hiking trail may have encroached on one of the lots in the Weaver Trace subdivision. If surveys prove this to be true, the trail can be relocated to avoid the private property.

### **Land Zones**

In addition to a Park Classification System, specific Land Management Zoning criteria will guide the planning for specific areas within Tims Ford State Park by establishing land use "zones". These zones will ensure that optimum recreation opportunities are offered while still protecting the natural and cultural values of the park area. Sound land use planning will establish guidelines for new park development to minimize conflicts in the future.

All of the land within the park is zoned according to the current and future needs. The zones reflect the current level of development and use, and will accommodate the long-range goals of the park.

[Appendix C](#) provides a detailed description of the land zoning criteria. A map reflecting these zones is also in Appendix C as [Figure C-1](#) and [Figure C-2](#).

## ***G2. Natural and Cultural Resource Management***

Archaeological survey data to date in the Tims Ford Reservoir area indicates that archaeological sites can be expected which range from Archaic through Mississippian period occupations, with the possible exception of Middle Woodland. A detailed, systematic cultural resource survey has not been conducted on the majority of the park lands.

Prior to any proposed development on these lands, a cultural resource survey will be conducted to determine the extent and significance of any resources present. Known sites include the Turner Cemetery, which is east of Mansford Bridge, and the Shasteen Cemetery, which is on Devil's Step Island. On the TERRM property, an unnamed cemetery exists at the Turkey Creek Public Recreation Area.

Several old home sites lie within the park and on the TERRM lands. These should be surveyed and identified as to type and location.

Terrestrial wildlife found locally is typical of the region and includes such species as White-tailed deer, Gray squirrels, Eastern cottontail rabbits and a variety of small rodents. Common birds include a variety of species such as Eastern Bluebirds, Mockingbirds, and Northern Cardinals, in addition to game species such as Eastern Wild Turkey and Bobwhite Quail.

Two caves are located within the park. Pennington Cave is located on the east side of Cooper Branch embayment. Devils Den cave (also known as Doom's Den) is located in a sink on the east side of Ray Branch. Pennington Cave is said to support a summer colony of the endangered Gray Bat, although this species has not been observed there in several years.

Migratory Bald Eagles have been reported to roost on a bluff located on the southwestern most point of the Wiseman's Bend peninsula. A 200-foot buffer zone and other protective measures have been established on Wiseman's Bend to protect this habitat.

As in the case of the park's cultural resources, no comprehensive natural resource inventory exists for the core park or for the TERRM properties that will be managed by the park. The lands to be transferred to Tims Ford State Park were not surveyed for the Environmental Impact Statement contained in the "Tims Ford Reservoir Land Management and Disposition Plan". Natural resources should be identified and catalogued.

Twenty parcels identified in the "Tims Ford Reservoir Land Management and Disposition" Plan contain Category 1 or Category 2 wetlands. None of the identified wetlands exist on lands to be managed by Tims Ford State Park, with the exception of those located at the Winchester City Park, on Parcel 80. The City of Winchester has indicated an interest in this parcel for the expansion of the park. Any management agreement between the city and TDEC should provide for the protection of the wetland areas.

Nineteen state or federally listed species are found in Franklin and Moore Counties. Both the Southeastern Shrew and the Mole Salamander have been found on the Tims Ford Reservoir lands. No new populations of listed species have been found. The diverse landscape of the reservoir lands provides suitable habitat for many species listed as endangered or in need of management.

The "Tims Ford Reservoir Land Management and Disposition Plan" details the affected environment. More detailed information is also contained in TVA's "Regional Natural Heritage Project Report."

The Iris Fund has been used at Tims Ford State Park through a service contract with Growild, Inc. for landscape planning and the planting of native species throughout the park. Growild has planned and implemented designs for the park entrance sign and flowerbed, the visitor center and office, and the multi-use trail, including the creation of a butterfly garden along the trail and the establishment of a native grass prairie. Tims Ford State Park has received \$40,000 in grants from the Iris Fund.

### **G3. Visitation**

As stated in the History section of this plan, visitation to Tims Ford State Park has been much larger than the 1969 Master Plan report prediction of 368,823. During the period from FY1995-96 to FY1999-00, the number of visitors has averaged 579,725. During that period, Tims Ford State Park received the following visitation:

1995-96	520,921
1996-97	474,068
1997-98	659,855
1998-99	897,143
1999-00	663,653

This visitation is also shown in [Figure 2](#). The dip in visitation (FY 1996-97), as well as the peak (FY 1998-99), are most likely related to the weather. During these five years, the visitation was measured by a tube counter placed at the park entrance.

The summer months of June-August provide the highest visitation with averages of 88,663 in June, 112,226 in July, and 82,205 in August. ([Figure 2](#) and [Figure 3](#)). Visitation to Tims Ford State Park in the spring (March-May) and in the fall months (September-November) follow the same trend. The spring averages are 32,726 in March, 52,306 in April, and 75,083 in May. ([Figure 4](#)). The fall averages are 52,890 in September, 45,402 in October, and 37,354 in November. ([Figure 5](#)) The winter months (December – February) are the slowest in terms of visitation with averages of 22,268 in December, 20,453 in January, and 20,453 in February. ([Figure 6](#))

It is expected that with the large increase in land base at Tims Ford State Park that the visitation will also dramatically increase.

### **G4. Park Infrastructure**

#### **Water Service**

Water service is provided by the City of Winchester and appears to be adequate for the needs of the existing facilities. The park presently uses approximately 840,000 gallons of water per year, based on utility bills for 2000.

#### **Electric Service**

The Duck River Electric Membership Corporation in Shelbyville provides electric service. Power lines are underground, for the most part, in accordance with LWCF regulations. There are overhead lines that serve the sewage treatment

plant and the Bear Trace golf course. The park consumes approximately 1,116,835-kilowatt hours per year.

The heating and air conditioning systems of the park's cabins were converted to propane during their renovation in 2000. This renovation included the replacement of all HVAC units. The 10,000-gallon propane tank sits at the entrance to the cabin area. Since the older electric HVAC units were comparatively inefficient, park management is expecting significant utility savings with the new units. A comparison will not be possible until the end of the 2001 season.

### **Sewage Treatment**

Sewage treatment is provided by the park's own treatment plant. Installed when the park was built in 1978, the plant and the park's sewage piping system are showing signs of age. During periods of heavy rainfall, infiltration by rainwater into the collection system often causes the plant to overload. Capital funding has been requested to replace the plant and repair the collection system, though size and location may depend on expansion of the park due to the "Tims Ford Reservoir Land Management and Disposition Plan."

### **Trash Removal**

Trash removal is accomplished by the park staff collecting the trash from receptacles throughout the park and conveying them to BFI containers located in the maintenance area. During the peak months of May through August, five containers of six cubic yards each are collected two times per week and taken to the Class 1 landfill in Winchester. The rest of the year, three containers of six cubic yard each are collected twice a week. Tims Ford State Park generates approximately 2,322 cubic yards of trash each year.

### **Recycling**

TDEC's Division of Community Assistance is assisting with recycling efforts at the park. Community Assistance has supplied the park with three 50-gallon paper-recycling bins, eight outdoor bins for plastic and aluminum, and two 50-gallon indoor bins for plastic and aluminum. Recyclables are collected by park staff and taken to the Franklin County recycling center. Franklin County has provided a six cubic yard bin for cardboard that is located in the maintenance area. Recycling was initiated in July 2001. The impact of the program cannot yet be measured.

### **Park Roads**

All park roads, totaling approximately eight miles, are paved and generally in good condition.

### **Parking Areas**

Parking areas are in good condition, although some are inadequate for periods of peak use. The campground, even with an overflow area of twenty spaces and



ten spaces at the two bathhouses, is unable to provide parking for cars and boat trailers at peak times. The cabin area, with twenty cabins, has only thirty-eight parking spaces and also proves inadequate during peak use periods. The small boat harbor and boat launch ramp parking lot has only fifty spaces and is filled to capacity early during the summer season. The overflow has a negative impact on the swimming pool and recreation building parking lot, making both lots inadequate during heavy use times. The picnic area parking lot, with ninety-six spaces to serve its fifty picnic sites, proves insufficient during large events. The visitor center and park office has more than adequate parking.

### **Visitor center and office**

The park visitor center and office is a single structure of 2,200 square feet that houses both the functions of administrative office, interpretive programming center, and gift shop. There is neither sufficient office space for additional personnel nor storage space at the current facility. The design includes two sets of stairs to offices within the building. Without an elevator, these spaces, as well as the restrooms, do not meet current handicap accessibility codes and standards. An overall assessment of the existing building indicates that it is inadequate to handle current needs and demands.

### **Residences**

There are three staff residences, each of about 1,800 square feet, in fairly good condition. These residences house the park manager and two rangers.

### **Maintenance area**

The maintenance area is adequate for current park needs, with its main building, garage area, and storage shed. The compound contains one aboveground 1,500-gallon gasoline tank and one aboveground 250-gallon diesel fuel tank. There is also a horse barn located behind the main maintenance building.

### **Small boat harbor**

The park's small boat harbor operation consists of a small boat dock, a boat launch ramp and associated courtesy dock and a small "short order restaurant" and bait shop. There is one 3,000-gallon aboveground gasoline tank to support the fuel dock.

### **Picnic area**

The picnic area is fairly centrally located and has two shelters able to accommodate about 40 people each, 50 picnic sites with grills, two restroom buildings, and a playground area.

### **Campground**

The campground is open year around. It consists of 52 sites, each with water and electrical service, a central dump station and two bathhouses. One bathhouse is closed from October to March. The handicap accessible bathhouse is open year round. Facilities also include a camper check-in station and a self-

service laundry. The campground has been heavily used and is heavily impacted.

### **Cabins**

The twenty deluxe vacation cabins were renovated during 1999 and 2000 at a cost of \$1,196,256. Improvements included conversion to propane heating and cooling systems, new roofs, new insulation and siding, and bathrooms. Site drainage was improved as well. A project is underway this year (2000-2001) to renovate the kitchens.

### **Swimming pool**

The swimming pool, constructed in 1978, containing about 489,000 gallons, with a wading pool of about 4,000 gallons, was completely renovated during 1996 and 1997. Renovation costs totaled \$654,843. The filtration system was replaced, a pool liner installed, a new deck built, and the bathhouses remodeled.

### **Recreation building**

The recreation building, a rectangular structure of 2,200 square feet, is part of a complex with the pool and play areas. It serves as a home base for the park's seasonal recreation specialist during the summer season. Various sorts of recreational equipment, including horseshoes, volleyballs, and softball equipment, may be checked out by park guests at the recreation building. The park maintains a fleet of about twenty bicycles that may be rented at the recreation building. The building also contains pool and ping-pong tables, as well as electronic games. It is within easy walking distance of the cabins.

Recreational facilities include the following:

- Playgrounds (3)
- Basketball Court
- Volleyball Courts (2)
- Horseshoe Pits (2)
- Ping Pong Table
- Softball Field
- Bicycle Trail (five miles)
- Multi-purpose Trail (one mile)
- Hiking Trail (approximately 2.5 miles)

These facilities were all part of the original Tims Ford State Park and constructed with the aid of grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

### **Playgrounds**

The Park has three playgrounds. They no longer meet national standard for playsets. In order to meet these standards, the playsets at all three playgrounds need to be replaced.

### Existing facilities at Tims Ford State Park

Number	Facility
20	Cabins
50	Campsites
2	Bathhouses
1	Check-in station and laundry
1	Marina/boat dock/restaurant
1	Boat Launch Ramp
1	Maintenance Area
1	Equipment Shed
1	Horse Barn
1	Swimming Pool
2	Picnic Shelters
50	Picnic Sites
3	Playgrounds
2	Restroom Buildings
1	Sewage treatment plant
3	Sewage lift stations
3	Staff Residences
1	Visitor Center and Park Office

### Bear Trace Golf Course

Owned and built by the State of Tennessee, the Bear Trace Golf Course on the Wiseman's Bend peninsula is under a thirty year lease to BlackHorse Golf Management. Jack Nicklaus designed the eighteen-hole course.

Facilities include a large log clubhouse, cart shed, maintenance building, a pump house, and two restroom buildings located on the course.

### TERRM Properties

TERRM properties will ultimately be included in the park. These have been identified in the "Tims Ford Reservoir Land Management and Disposition Plan" and are listed in the Land Based Resources section of this document. Facilities found on the lands to be transferred include the boat launching ramps and courtesy docks at the following locations:

- Anderton Branch
- Lost Creek
- Turkey Creek
- Pleasant Grove
- Holiday Landing Resort, Inc.
- Devil's Step

Of these, all but Anderton Branch have restrooms on the property. The Fairview Campground contains a bathhouse and a residence for the campground manager.

### **Handicap Access**

In November of 1994, the engineering firm of Barge, Waggoner, Sumner, and Cannon surveyed Tennessee State Parks to determine the parks' degree of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). A number of problems were noted on the park. Since that report, deficiencies have been corrected, except in the park office, the restrooms in the picnic areas and the swimming pool. While the restrooms at the pool have been made accessible, the pool does not have a lift. Facilities found on the areas to be incorporated into the park are not in compliance with the ADA and will need to be renovated or replaced.

### **G5. Equipment**

Both ERF equipment and MVM vehicles are leased from the Department of General Services at a standardized price per month. These items are also maintained on an automatic replacement schedule. This schedule is intended to provide for the timely replacement of antiquated and worn out equipment and generally is effective.

The inventory for these two entities has been inadequate to meet the expanded needs of the park resulting from the acquisition of additional lands and facilities in recent years. Using two vehicles from the TERRM inventory on the park has rectified this shortfall in the near term; however, additional vehicles and equipment will probably be required in the future. A trailer large enough to haul the backhoe is also needed.

<b>Tims Ford State Park MVM Inventory</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Annual</b>
S4HA10- 93 Jeep Cherokee	\$194	\$2,328
S1ML92-Crown Victoria	\$266	\$3,192
S5PH49- 99 Jeep Cherokee	\$464	\$5,568
S3DG03- 87 Ford Aerostar	\$166	\$1,992
S1RA97- 99 Malibu	\$346	\$4,152
S4HX50- 93 Ford Ranger	\$117	\$1,404
S4MB01-96 Chevy Truck	\$314	\$3,768
S4MB75-96 GMC Truck	\$336	\$4,032
S7BW54-86 International Harvester Dump Truck	\$155	\$1,860
S8FE29-Horse trailer	\$97	\$1,164
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,455</b>	<b>\$29,460</b>

Note: These are the rates for FY 2000-01.

<b>Tims Ford State Park ERF Inventory</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Annual</b>
AT0344-leaf blower	\$19	\$228
EM0379-tractor	\$177	\$2,124
EM0561-backhoe loader	\$302	\$3,624
EM0640-riding mower	\$83	\$996
EM0708-riding mower	\$40	\$480
EM0864-tractor	\$165	\$1,980
EM1185-riding mower	\$83	\$996
EM1297-riding mower	\$232	\$2,784
GC1626-utility cart	\$86	\$1,032
GC1632-utility cart	\$86	\$1,032
GC1631-utility cart	\$86	\$1,032
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>\$1,359</b>	<b>\$16,308</b>

Note: These are the rates for FY 2000-01.

<b>Tims Ford State Park MVM and ERF Expenditures: 5 Year Trend</b>			
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>MVM Expenditures</b>	<b>ERF Expenditures</b>	<b>Total</b>
1995-96	\$21,206	\$23,582	\$44,788
1996-97	\$29,684	\$26,799	\$56,483
1997-98	\$36,627	\$19,750	\$56,377
1998-99	\$25,470	\$19,152	\$44,622
1999-00	\$23,640	\$19,242	\$42,882
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$136,627</b>	<b>\$108,525</b>	<b>\$245,152</b>

<b>TERRM MVM Inventory</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Annual</b>
S1PK82-96 Lumina	\$121	\$1,452
S4KV99-93 GMC pick-up	\$171	\$2,052
S4MY51- 2001 CHVRL pick-up	\$318	\$3,816
S5PH88- 99 GMC pick-up	\$463	\$5,556
S5PJ96-2000 CHVRL pick-up	\$503	\$6,036
S5PF78-93 Ford F250	\$203	\$2,436
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,779</b>	<b>\$21,348</b>

<b>TERRM ERF Inventory</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Annual</b>
EM2064-Tractor	\$23	\$276
EM2065-Mower	\$22	\$264
AT0605-Rotary cutter	\$40	\$480
**AT0606-Utility trailer	\$74	\$888
**AT0607-Utility trailer	\$166	\$1,992
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$325</b>	<b>\$3,900</b>

\*\*NOTE: AT0606 & AT0607 – Park Manager has requested these be removed from ERF.

### **Tims Ford State Park Equipment**

Boat – Polarcraft (1) Rental Boat  
Boat – Ebbtide (2) Patrol Boat  
(only one Ebbtide is operational)  
Boat – Aluma Craft (5) Rental Boat  
Boat Trailers (3)  
Outboard Motor - Mariner, 40hp  
Outboard Motor – Mariner, 115hp  
Pontoon Boat

Radios, 2-way, port & charger  
Kenwood (7)  
Radios, 2-way; port & charger  
Motorola/MX (7)  
Radio, High Frequency Kenwood (3)  
Radio, High Frequency  
Motorola/Base (1)  
Radio Repeater, Kenwood (1)

TV – GE  
TV – Magnavox  
TV – Zenith  
TV – Sanyo  
TV – Curtis Mathis  
VCR - Sharp

Shotgun – Remington (3)  
Shotgun – Smith and Wesson (1)

Computer – MT D'PRO 4000/1  
Computer – Compac  
Computer – Deskpro 6000/16  
Computer – Dell (2)  
Printer – Lexmark 5700  
Printer – Okidata (3)  
Printer – IBM 4029

Camera 35 mm – Minolta  
Fax machine – Brother

### **TERRM Equipment**

Compaq Computer (1)  
Lexmark Optra S 1250 Printer (1)  
Pack-Mate 386SX Computer (1)  
Sperry Printer (1)  
Pionex Computer (1)  
Hewlett Packard Printer (1)  
Mita DC-2155 Copier (1)  
Royal SE 5000 CD Typewriter (1)  
Microwave (1)  
Refrigerator (1)

## ***G6. Retail Operations and Facilities***

Tims Ford State Park has the following retail facilities:

Cabins (20)  
Campground (1)  
Swimming Pool (1)  
Gift Shop (1)  
Bike Rental (1)  
Shelter (2)

The park also has two major leased retail facilities. These facilities consist of the following:

- Golf Course (1)
- Small Boat Harbor (1)

TERRM has two retail facilities. These facilities are managed by Tims Ford State Park but still funded through the TERRM budget. (Note: A TDEC legislative initiative is being proposed to fold the TERRM facilities into Tims Ford State Park)

- Fairview Campground (1)
- Marina/resort (1)

## **Facilities**

### Cabins

The 20 deluxe vacation cabins at Tims Ford State Park were originally constructed in the 1970s using suspended-pole construction. These cabins were renovated in 2000 in order to convert the cabins to propane heating and cooling systems, replace the roofs, add insulation and siding, improve the bathrooms, and improve site drainage. A project is currently under way (FY 2000-01) to renovate the kitchens. The cabins had been open from March through November; however, beginning in 2001, they are to be open year-round.

The number of cabin rentals over the last five fiscal years has been steady (averaging 2,772 rentals), except for parts of FY 1999-00 and FY 2000-2001 when they were closed for renovation (November 1999 - October 2000). (The number of rentals dropped to 1,073 in FY 1999-00).

The average occupancy rate for the cabins during the past five years was 43%. ([Figure 7](#) and [Figure 8](#)) While seeming steady, the occupancy rate has actually dropped from the previous five-year period when it averaged 59% and 3,239 cabins were rented. ([Figure 9](#) and [Figure 10](#)) The drop in occupancy is in part due to the change in the school schedules in the region from the traditional Labor Day – Memorial Day calendar to an early August – Memorial Day school calendar. This change in schedules, in turn, has caused the average length of stay at the cabins to change from being weeklong to mainly weekends.

[Figure 11](#) shows the number of cabin rentals during the spring, summer, and fall seasons. Until the winter of 2001, the cabins were not open in the winter. [Figure 12](#) shows the occupancy rates during the various seasons.

As can be seen on [Figure 22](#), revenues for the cabins have ranged from a low of \$85,806.44 in FY 1999-00 (when the cabins were closed for construction) to a high of \$234,362.89 in FY 1997-98. Expenditures have ranged from \$89,913.22 in FY 1999-00 to \$146,429.99 in FY 1997-98.



### Campgrounds

Tims Ford State Park has one 50-site campground within the main area of the park. Each of the sites at this campground has water and electrical service (30 amps) and there are two bathhouses as well as a camper check-in station and a Laundromat to serve the public. This campground has been heavily used and impacted. It has averaged 5,383 campsite rentals over the last five years and has an average occupancy of 29%. ([Figure 13](#)) and [Figure 14](#))] The peak months of use are March through October when there is an average occupancy of 42%. ([Figure 15](#), [Figure 16](#), [Figure 17](#), [Figure 18](#), [Figure 19](#), [Figure 20](#))

[Figure 22](#) shows that revenues for this campground have ranged from \$53,558.44 in FY 1995-96 to a high of \$74,044.05 in FY 1999-00, while expenditures have ranged from \$26,751.83 in FY 1998-99 to \$34,042.69 in FY 1996-97.

### Swimming Pool

The Olympic-sized swimming pool was constructed in 1978. It was renovated in FY 1998-99 to put in a new liner, repair the gutters, bring the bathhouses into ADA compliance, and replace the original wooden deck with concrete. The pool has averaged 18,654 swimmers per year over the last five years. [Figure 21](#) shows that visitation to the swimming pool peaked in FY 1997-98 with 30,483 swimmers and hit a low point in FY 1999-00 with 13,028 swimmers (largely due to the cabins being closed for renovations). Revenues for the pool have ranged from \$21,449.90 in FY 1995-96 to \$56,063.00 in FY 1997-98. ([Figure 22](#)) During the same time the expenditures have ranged from \$28,013.59 in FY 1995-96 to \$48,741.50 in FY 1999-00. Expenditures at the pool have consistently been higher than the revenues in part due to the cabin guests having a discounted rate (thereby creating lower revenues) and also in part because of the pool being maintenance and personnel intensive.

### Gift Shop

The park gift shop was created in 1981 and is located in the park visitor center/office. It consists of a display case as well as a clothing rack. It averages revenues of \$4,875 per year and expenditures of \$2,850.

### Bike Rental

The bike rental at Tims Ford State Park is located in the recreation building and consists of approximately 20 bikes. It averages revenues of \$1,976 per year and expenditures of \$2,883. (This amount is skewed due to insufficient data and because in FY 1997-98 the bikes were replaced)

### Leased Facilities

Tims Ford State Park has two major leased facilities: a golf course and small boat harbor. The Jack Nicklaus designed golf course is currently run by BlackHorse Golf as a part of the Bear Trace. It opened in Summer 1999 and approximately 20,000 rounds were played that year. It is a 6,790-yard, 18-hole

course. Most of the rounds played are by people from Huntsville, Murfreesboro, and Nashville.

The Lakeview Restaurant and Boat Dock is a small boat harbor and is currently run by contract with a concessionaire. It provides a short order grill type restaurant, a gas dock, a small boat rental, and bait sales. The Lakeview Restaurant and Boat Dock is currently in the middle of a 5-year lease that ends in 2002. The lease has a 5-year renewal option and requires the concessionaire to pay \$350 per month plus utilities.

### **TERRM Facilities**

TERRM operates two major facilities that fall under the jurisdiction of state parks: a campground and a marina/resort. The TERRM campground, also known as Fairview Campground, is located in Franklin County, near Winchester, off U.S. Highway 50. This campground officially became part of Tims Ford State Park during the year 2001 through the dispersal of TERRM properties, though it has been overseen by TDEC since 1996. It is an 88-site campground that is annually operated from April – October. Thirty of the sites are auctioned off for the summer season, and each has electrical service (30 amps), water, and sewer. Thirty-eight sites have electrical service (30 amps) and water. These sites are available for rent on a first-come, first-serve basis. The rest of the sites are fairly primitive. The campground had an average occupancy rate of 42% in the year 2000. Occupancy and revenues at this campground have increased each year over the last four years and have ranged from \$42,968.63 in 1997 to \$76,169 in 2000. Under TDEC oversight there has been increased Ranger Patrol and programmed activities. TDEC has a personal services contract with an on-site manager for the operation of this campground, which expires in March 2002.

The Holiday Landing Resort is a leased facility at the park and consists of a 103-slip marina, 5 A-frame cabins, a motel unit with 5 rooms, and 5 RV campsites with full hookups. Holiday Landing is currently operated through a lease with Holiday Landing Resort, Inc. The contract is a 20-year lease with a 5-year extension. Tims Ford State Park will receive 2.5% of the gross revenue from this facility.

## ***G7. Recreation Facilities and Programs***

The park's greatest recreational resource is Tims Ford Reservoir. Recreational opportunities in the area have recently been enhanced by the construction of a new Bear Trace Golf Course on the Wiseman's Bend area of the park.

Recreational facilities on the existing park are limited to the fairly traditional:

- Playgrounds (3)
- Basketball Court
- Volleyball Courts (2)
- Horseshoe Pits (2)
- Ping Pong Table
- Softball Field
- Bicycle Trail (five miles)
- Multi-purpose Trail (one mile)
- Hiking Trail (approximately 2.5 miles)

These facilities were all part of the original Tims Ford State Park and constructed with the aid of grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The multi-purpose trail was completed in 2000, with the help of a Recreation Trails Grant of \$98,218. It begins at the visitor center and terminates with a platform overlooking Tims Ford Reservoir. A hiking trail, completed in 1999, continues from that point for about another two and one half miles. It was constructed with an AmeriCorps grant that provided AmeriCorps labor.

Surveys have shown that most visitors participate in activities on Tims Ford Reservoir or use the park's swimming pool. There are few facilities or programs that can be used during the evening hours. Day use, during the weekdays, is generally confined to the pool and the small boat harbor, though visitors use the playfields, trails, and picnic areas, as well.

The park does have two seasonal Ranger Interpretive Aids available from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The seasonal staff devote half their time to interpretation and recreation programming and half to other duties associated with Ranger Aid. For the three-month period, the park is able to offer nature hikes, outdoor adventure walks and talks, as well as organized activities such as volleyball, basketball and similar activities. Cabin and campground guests attend these programs, however local residents have not been attracted to these programs. More special events might encourage more day use from the local area. A full-time Interpretive Specialist is needed to coordinate activities at the park.

Equipment that may be checked out at the recreation building includes:

- Playing Cards
- Ping Pong Paddles and Ball
- Volleyballs
- Basketballs
- Puzzles
- Board Games

The park maintains a fleet of about twenty bicycles that may be rented at the recreation building.

The park hosts an arts and crafts fair sponsored by Broadview Elementary School in October of each year that is well received and well attended. Departmental marketing could help attendance.

Tims Ford State Park hosts a “Guitar Picking” on alternate Saturday nights throughout the year that seems to be popular with the local citizens. Generally, though, organized recreational programming remains relatively hit or miss for most of the year.

## ***G8. Interpretive Facilities and Programs***

The interpretive program at Tims Ford State Park is very limited. The park has historically centered on traditional outdoor recreation activities such as camping, bicycling, hiking, and boating. There is no Interpretive Specialist position assigned to Tims Ford State Park, nor is there a facility dedicated to interpretive programming. The combination visitor center and park office offers some limited graphic exhibits, but the space available and the general configuration of the building preclude any program presentations.

The lack of personnel and facilities dedicated to interpretation seriously limits Tims Ford State Park’s opportunity to educate the park’s visitors.

## ***G9. Facilities Management and Maintenance***

Facilities and grounds at Tims Ford State Park have been well cared for, as evidenced by the generally good condition of the park. Since the park’s construction in 1978, the park staff has steadily corrected design flaws, at the same time employing good maintenance techniques.

All the park structures are suspended from posts set in the ground. Originally, the tops of the support posts were open to the weather and began to decay from the top toward the bottom, endangering the buildings. Over the years, the roofs

of most of the buildings have been extended to cover and protect the posts, adding years to the lives of the structures.

The park is, for the most part, ADA compliant. However, the visitor center and picnic area restrooms are not in compliance.

The park supplies its own fire protection. There are fire hoses located at the visitors center, the cabins, marina, and park residences. Additional emergency assistance is provided as needed by the Broadview Volunteer Fire Department.

Maintenance equipment is not adequate for the needs of the park. The park does not have the capability of transporting heavy equipment. The number of maintenance personnel is adequate, with the exception of the custodial workers. In 2001, the Tims Ford State Park cabins are to be open for a full twelve months. The custodians who clean the cabins are in ten and nine-month positions. Additional staffing is necessary to assure that the cabins are available to the public in a timely manner. TDEC is requesting that the custodial worker positions be upgraded to full-time.

The park's Major Maintenance requests for fiscal year 2001 – 2002 are as follows:

1. Complete the replacement of the outside lighting at the park office and park recreation building. \$98,000
2. Replace the wooden fence at the swimming pool with an eight-foot chain link fence and extend the bathhouse roof and recreation building roof to cover the support posts. \$60,000
3. Refinish the floors in the visitor center and vacation cabins. \$80,000
4. Replace all wooden playground equipment on the park. \$85,000
5. Replace windows and siding; stain and paint three park residences. \$65,000

Capital Maintenance needs have been identified as follows:

1. Repair or replace the sewage treatment plant.
2. Rework the linen storage and equipment storage sides of the maintenance shop to make the building more efficient. Provide restroom facilities for female workers in the linen storage area.
3. Replace restrooms in the picnic area with ADA compliant facilities.
4. Upgrade or replace the bathhouses in the campgrounds. Additional showers and toilets are needed.
5. Improve existing campground to better manage impact and control erosion.
6. Upgrade electrical, water and site layouts at Fairview Campground. Upgrade Fairview Campground bathhouse for ADA compliance. Improve Fairview Campground to include RV sites.

Other projects have been proposed for Tims Ford State Park. These will require Capital Project funding should they be determined feasible:

1. Make the existing visitor center ADA compliant and add office space.
2. Construct new RV campground of 100 sites.
3. Provide additional campsites that offer 50 amp service and that can accommodate RV's of up to 45 feet.
4. Construct camper cabins, or yurts, capable of housing two to four people, to provide an alternative to the more expensive deluxe vacation cabins.
5. Construct temporary docking slips that may be rented on a daily or weekly basis for the cabin and campground guests.
6. Construct a picnic shelter large enough to provide accommodations for groups of at least 500.
7. Construct swim beach at Fairview Campground.
8. Construct gas dock and small boat harbor at Fairview Campground.
9. Add meeting space with capacity of at least 200 people.
10. Construct a boat storage area on the lake for the park's patrol boat, or boats, that would allow fast launching of the boat during winter months.

## ***G10. Safety and Security***

Between 1984 and 1999, Tims Ford State Park commissioned officer staff included a Park Manager and two Park Rangers. In 1999, an additional Ranger position was approved and assigned to the park with the primary duty of providing a law enforcement capability on Tims Ford Reservoir lands and facilities held under the Tennessee Elk River Resource Management (TERRM) program.

The Strategic Management Plan prepared for Tims Ford State Park (1989) reported gross visitation for the fiscal year of 1987-1988 of 318,909 visitors. By the fiscal year 1999-2000 visitation had increased to 663,653 representing an increase of 51.8%.

During the same time period (1987-1988), 17 Class I offenses (larceny, burglary, assault, etc.) were prosecuted by the ranger staff compared to no such offenses in 1999-2000. 680 Class II offenses (public drunkenness, drug offenses, vandalism, DUI, littering, etc.) were reported during 1987-1988; however, this number had increased only 23% to 886 cases by 1999-2000. Another way to look at those statistics is that there were 0.021 Class II offenses per visitor in 1987-1988, and 0.014 Class II offenses per visitor in 1999-2000. This shows a per visitor decrease.

	<b>1987-1988</b>	<b>1999-2000</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Visitation	318,909	633,653	51.8%
Class I offenses	17	0	(100%)
Class II offenses	680	886	23%

During the fiscal year 1999-2000, the safety and security staff also reported patrols by boat of 65 hours and on horseback of 57 hours. In addition they had logged 43,250 patrol miles by vehicle and 192 patrol miles on foot. The ranger staff logged a total of 36,100 visitor contacts for the reported year.

The mounted ranger program at Tims Ford State Park is equipped with two horses and tack. There is not enough overlap in the Rangers' schedules to allow adequate time for optimal use of the Mounted Ranger Program.

Tims Ford State Park and TERRM holdings on the Tims Ford Reservoir cover a very widespread area. One patrol circuit of the reservoir, 59.6 miles, takes one hour and twenty-seven minutes to complete. Distances and times to each park or TERRM property, from either the TERRM office or the Tims Ford State Park office, are indicated below:

#### **Distance From Tims Ford State Park**

Pleasant Grove	7.3 miles	11 minutes
Turkey Creek	9.5 miles	14 minutes
Fairview Campground	8.3 miles	11 minutes
Lost Creek	5.8 miles	9 minutes
Neil Bridge	5.9 miles	8 minutes
Rock Creek	11.1 miles	16 minutes
TERRM Office	11.1 miles	17 minutes
Dry Creek	10.1 miles	16 minutes
Anderton Branch	10.8 miles	16 minutes

#### **Distance From TERRM Office**

Pleasant Grove	8.1 miles	13 minutes
Turkey Creek	14.8 miles	22 minutes
Fairview Campground	4.8 miles	8 minutes
Lost Creek	16.3 miles	24 minutes
Neil Bridge	16.4 miles	24 minutes
Rock Creek	6.5 miles	10 minutes
Tims Ford State Park	11.1 miles	17 minutes
Dry Creek	2.5 miles	5 minutes
Anderton Branch	13.7 miles	20 minutes

## ***G11. Personnel***

Tims Ford State Park is presently staffed with 13 full time personnel, one overlapped, and 16 part-time and seasonal employees. The Tennessee Elk River Resource Management (TERRM) staff is also attached to the Park for administrative support and may be utilized by the Park Manager on an “as needed” basis.

The TERRM staff consists of five full time employees and one part time.

Tables outlining these positions and approximately where they spend their time are on the next page. The first table is for personnel who are with the state park. The approximate percentage of time that each position spends in the various program areas is stated. Since some of the personnel also spend time working with TERRM properties, the last 2 columns show the percentage of time that each position spends on state park activities and TERRM activities. The second table gives the same breakdown for personnel who are paid out of the TERRM budget. It also gives the respective percentages of time that are spent on state park and TERRM activities.



### Park Personnel

Position	Admin.	Cabin	Camp-ground	Safety	Prgm.	Maint.	Other	Park Total	TERRM
Manager 2	75%			10%	5%		10%	90%	10%
Ranger 2	40%	20%	5%	20%	5%	10%		90%	10%
Ranger 2	25%		5%	60%	10%			90%	10%
Clerk 3 (OL)	100%							95%	5%
Clerk 2	100%							95%	5%
Clerk 2	100%							95%	5%
Fac Spec	30%					70%		80%	20%
ConsWkr 2						100%			
ConsWkr 2						100%			
ConsWkr 1						100%			
ConsWkr 1						100%			
ConsWkr 1						100%			
ConsWkr 1						100%			
ConsWkr 1						100%			
ConsWkr 1 (9 mo)						100%			
Custodians (4) (10 mo.)		90%					10%		
Lifeguard 2				100%					
Lifeguard 1 (7)				100%					
SeasInt Ranger				50%	50%				
SeasInt Ranger				50%	50%				

### TERRM Personnel

Position	Admin.	Cabin	Camp-ground	Safety	Prgm.	Maint.	Other	Park	TERRM Total
Ranger 2	30%			60%	5%		5%	20%	80%
Secretary	100%							10%	90%
ConsWkr 3							100%	10%	90%
ConsWkr 3							100%	10%	90%
ConsWkr 2							100%	10%	90%
ConsWkr1 (6 mo)							100%	10%	90%

## ***G12. Park Budget and Funding***

The budget for Tims Ford State Park is based on a yearly state appropriation that is determined by the difference between the park's revenues (generated through user fees) and expenditures. Over the last five years the park's appropriation has basically remained unchanged despite the park's tripling in size, an increased need for park personnel presence in a much larger area, and the incorporation of additional operations from TERRM properties.

The annual appropriation over the last five years has averaged approximately \$212,796 and ranged from a low of \$157,306 in FY 1997-98 to a high of \$273,594 in FY 1999-00. ([Figure 22](#)) These amounts do not include maintenance, which is in a different budget code. In FY 1997-98, the number of people camping, renting cabins, swimming, and visiting the park all increased thus increasing the revenues at the park and in effect allowing for a decrease in the amount appropriated for the operation of the park.

In FY 1999-00, the cabins were closed for several months thus creating for a decline in the park revenues of approximately \$107,000 and thereby increasing the appropriation for that year.

Overall, Tims Ford achieves a 5-year average self-sufficiency rating of approximately 60%, not including maintenance. When maintenance is included this 5-year average self-sufficiency rating drops to 41%. This rating is based upon the ability of the park's revenues to meet or exceed the park's expenditures (the rating may or may not contain personnel costs depending upon the operation in question). Over the past five years, the park has averaged revenues of \$318,023 and expenditures of \$530,819. (This does not include maintenance.) Administrative costs for operating the park are the highest expenditure at an average of \$280,399. Maintenance is the second highest expenditure at the park with an average cost of \$240,282. (Note: The maintenance budget is from a different funding source than the operations).

In terms of large park operations, camping revenues average \$63,313, and expenditures average \$31,068. Cabin rentals have revenues averaging \$191,332 and expenditures averaging \$129,515. (Note: These averages are skewed because the cabins were closed most of FY 1999-00, and both the revenues and expenditures were very low).

In terms of smaller park operations, revenues generated by the vending of food and beverages in the park average \$13,560, while expenditures have averaged \$5,353. The gift shop averages revenues of \$4,876 and expenditures of \$2,852. The rest of the operations at the park are not necessarily revenue-generators but are important in terms of the park's mission. These operations include general recreation (picnic shelters, bike rentals, etc) with revenues averaging \$5,153 and expenditures averaging \$37,221; leased operations with

revenues of \$2,349 and expenditures of \$5,550; and swimming with revenues averaging \$37,441 and expenditures averaging \$39,932. (Note: Swimming may break even because of cabin guests being allowed to swim for free, but it is difficult to determine this at this time because of a lack of information).

### ***G13. TERRM Operations and Resources***

TERRM, an acronym for Tennessee Elk River Resource Management, is an administrative program of the Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). As stated earlier in this plan, TERRM was established in April 1996, after the Tennessee General Assembly enacted Public Chapter 816. This legislation dissolved the former Tennessee Elk River Development Agency (TERDA), which was created in 1963 by the Tennessee State Legislature. All staff and properties were transferred to the Department of Environment and Conservation. The Department took over responsibility for the operations of TERDA, including the financial resources.

In February 1998, the Department of Environment and Conservation and Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) entered into a contractual agreement to redefine the obligations and responsibilities of both agencies and to develop a comprehensive land use plan for Tims Ford Reservoir lands. In August 2000, the Land Management and Disposition Plan for Tims Ford Reservoir was adopted by the State Building Commission and the TVA Board. Pursuant to state and federal laws, the plan serves as both agencies' policy to provide long-term stewardship of the Tims Ford Reservoir lands. The plan also allocates these lands into various use categories for final disposition and protection by either the TVA or the state.

As a result of the Land Management and Disposition Plan, TDEC and Tims Ford State Park will be receiving additional lands for managing and protecting. There is a total of 1,391.0 acres that will be under the TDEC and Tims Ford State Park's jurisdictions. Of this total, 538.1 acres will be added to Tims Ford State Park by June 2002. The remaining acres (852.9 acres) will require the state park resources to protect and maintain until final disposition. Of these remaining acres, 697.3 acres will be sold for residential development; 67.3 acres will be sold or leased for commercial use and 88.3 acres will be assigned to county or city jurisdictions for local recreational uses.

Both TVA and TWRA have indicated interest in leasing from TDEC the existing TERRM office and maintenance compound located on Parcel 83.

TDEC and Tims Ford State Park will proceed with the disbursement and disposition of the 852.9 acres over the next five years. The sale of the residential development and commercial lands will be handled through the State Building Commission. TDEC will handle the recreational lands by developing state/local

government management agreements. However, until these transactions are completed, Tims Ford State Park will have management responsibility.

The TERRM staff resources and facilities will ultimately be integrated into Tims Ford State Park. TDEC is requesting that the General Assembly add the TERRM staff positions (and related expenses) to the state park operating budget. Thus, Tims Ford State Park will manage and operate facilities such as the campground, marina, and boat ramps. The TERRM resources and facilities are further described in many of the sections of this part of the status report. For example, the Land Based Resources section identifies the specific lands (parcel by parcel) that will be added to the state park.

Until the final disposition of land and resources is complete, the existing Tims Ford State Park resources will be utilized for managing and providing protection to the TERRM properties. The future impact on the state park resources will need to be assessed and a staffing analysis will need to be conducted over the next year (2002).

It is anticipated that all TERRM operations and land resource issues will be resolved within five years.

### ***G14. Marketing***

Currently, there are no marketing activities or plans for Tims Ford State Park.

Tims Ford State Park is included in all system-wide brochures and publications produced by the Department to promote Tennessee State Parks; however, existing materials do not include the Fairview Campground, nor the fact that former TERRM facilities are now managed by Tennessee State Parks. New park brochures are needed that will reflect the new services.

### ***G15. Assessment and Planning***

Over the past thirty years, many reports and planning documents have been developed for Tims Ford State Park. They include:

1. Master Plan Report: Tims Ford State Park, (TVA, TERDA, and Tennessee Department of Conservation) November 1969.
2. TORAS Management Plan, (TDOC) August 1972.
3. Tims Ford Land Analysis, (TVA) December 1975.
4. Tims Ford State Rustic Park Golf Course Feasibility Study, (EDAW, Inc., Gary Roger Baird, Inc., William Sherman Company) December 1988.
5. Strategic Management Plan: Tims Ford State Park, (TDOC) September 1989, updated February 1990.

6. ADA Survey: Tims Ford State Park, November 1994.
7. Planning Document – Tennessee State Parks Study on “how to provide the park with facilities required to better serve its users and to increase its revenue production, (Lose and Associates) 1995.
8. Environmental Assessment: Transfer of Property Rights to Allow for Expansion of Tims Ford State Park, (TVA) March 1997.
9. TVA Regional Natural Heritage Project Report, Tims Ford Final Report (TVA) 1998.
10. Proposed Renovations for Fairview Campground, (Larry Woods) August 1999.
11. Tims Ford Reservoir: Land Management and Disposition Plan, (TVA) June 2000.
12. Environmental Impact Statement: Tims Ford Reservoir, (TVA and TDEC) June 2000.

A number of current and on-going assessment studies and planning reports impact Tims Ford State Park. These include:

- TVA and TDEC's implementation of the “Tims Ford Reservoir Land Management and Disposition Plan” will result in additional lands (refer to “G13. TERRM Operations and Resources” in this plan) becoming part of Tims Ford State Park. In accordance with this plan, park resources will assist in protecting and maintaining those lands designated for residential development and commercial uses until final disposition by the Department.
- TVA is preparing a “carrying capacity” study on the Tims Ford Reservoir to better manage the surface waters and shoreline. As part of this study, TVA and TDEC staff conducted boat usage surveys through the summer of 2001 around the reservoir. TVA will publish the final conclusions and recommendations of this study in September 2001.
- A private development group associated with the Tims Ford Marina, Inc. has approached the Department in January 2001, with a proposal for potential commercial development. The proposal included a “resort” type facility consisting of an inn (hotel), restaurant, conference center, retail space, and additional boat slips. Consideration would be given to the property adjacent to the Tims Ford Marina, Inc. property and across from the Tims Ford State Park. This property is identified for recreation use in the “Tims Ford Reservoir Land Management and Disposition Plan” and will be acquired by the Tims Ford State Park.

There is an aggregate of intangible economic and social benefits to the community accruing due to the presence of the state park. These include the value of the scenic beauty of the area in general, the view from specific

residential and commercial properties, and the value of non-market recreational activities such as hiking, bird watching, and photography. Proximity to parks, greenways, and recreational trails, as well as the reservoir, may positively affect property values.

The following identifies the privately provided visitor services that impact the state park:

1. Holiday Landing Resort and Marina, Inc.: This is a leased operation located on property currently being acquired by the state park as a part of the "Tims Ford Reservoir Land Management and Disposition Plan." The Department and the lessee are proceeding with a long-term agreement (twenty years with a five-year renewal option) to allow for further investment in the existing facilities. This will result in improvements to the existing facilities, increased usage by state park visitors/customers, and increased revenues for the park.
2. Lakeview Restaurant and Boat Dock: This is a leased operation within the state park that provides a short order grill type restaurant, gas dock, boat rental, and bait sales.
3. Bear Trace Golf Course: This is a leased operation within the park that provides an 18-hole golf course with pro shop and short order grill.
4. Tims Ford Marina, Inc.: This is a privately owned marina that is located outside of the state park, one mile from the park entrance. It provides marina type services, slip rental, gas sales, a small store and restaurant, and cabin rentals. Based on the potential commercial development (as noted above), there could be significant benefits and impacts to the state park.

There are additional research and planning needs, as well as social and economic impact studies on the surrounding community that should be undertaken over the next several years. These are as follows:

1. Additional studies to provide up to date information on the social impact of the state park on the community.
2. Cultural and natural resources research on original park properties, on new park properties, and on park and TERRM lands not covered by the TVA environmental impact assessment, such as the islands and the 1996 acquisition.
3. Visitor demographic research.

## ***G16. Management Options, Impacts and Constraints***

### **Access Fee Program**

With the expansion of Tims Ford State Park, several issues will need to be addressed in order to effectively implement the Access Fee Program.

1. There are five (5) boat ramps in pocket areas located around Tims Ford Reservoir outside of the original park property. There will need to be a collection system for each of these areas and for the original park property.
2. The park has acquired six (6) islands that are located in Tims Ford Reservoir. There will be the need to look at how the access fee will apply to those areas, and how it could be implemented.

The Access Fee Program can be implemented at Tims Ford State Park, but it will require additional personnel (e.g. Park Rangers) to enforce and oversee the implementation of the program within all of the park's properties.

### **Friends groups and other non-profits**

Tims Ford State Park is not affiliated with an organized "Friends of the Park" group. The park works with scout groups and other non-profit groups on a regular basis. The Broadview Elementary Parent Teacher Organization holds the annual Arts and Crafts show at the park as a fundraiser for the PTO. The establishment of a Friends of Tims Ford State Park group could provide significant resources and support that is not currently available.

### **Contract Services and Leases**

1. Fairview Campground – The campground is operated through a management contract. This contract is in effect until March of 2002.
2. Lakeview Restaurant & Boat Dock – This operation at the small boat harbor located on Tims Ford State Park is under contract to a concessionaire. The contract will be in effect until December 31, 2002.
3. Holiday Landing Resort and Marina is a leased operation acquired by TDEC in 1996 for transfer to Tims Ford State Park.
4. Bear Trace Golf Course

Currently, there are no other areas located on park properties that have been identified for possible contract operations.